

Children in Southwark

Newsletter of Southwark Children and Families Alliance/SCCF

No. 21 - July 2000

Best Value in Southwark

The Best Value programme will have a significant impact on the way Southwark Council delivers and funds services for children and young people. This article summarises the principles of Best Value and reports on three of the reviews already in progress.

Best Value is a key part of the government's programme to modernise and reform local government. It is summarised in the Local Government Act 1999 as follows: "A best value authority must make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness". Councils are now required to undertake reviews of all their activities (including services it funds the voluntary sector to provide) over a five-year cycle.

Best Value Reviews are required to:

- challenge whether a service should be provided at all, and if so whether it is being provided in the most effective way;
- consult to find out what the local community wants and is prepared to pay for;
- compare a council's performance with the performance of others, taking into account the views of service users and potential providers in the public, private and voluntary sectors;
- compete to determine who can best deliver the type of service wanted, to the quality desired and at the lowest cost.

Southwark has agreed a four year programme of Best Value Reviews, some of which are already in progress. Those that are likely to impact most on services for children and young people are set out in the Box on the next page.

Each review is overseen by a Project Board and has to go through a process of planning (including agreeing the scope of the review), reviewing (including consultation), developing a challenge report setting out what could be changed, testing the findings and implementation.

Play and After School Services Review

David Wallis, Community Development Manager, Southwark Leisure, talked to the July Southwark Children and Families Alliance about the Best Value review of Play and After School Services, which he is managing. The review is focusing on:

- the Community After School Service which provides 2000 childcare places in 24 local primary schools as well as Easter and Summer Holiday Playschemes;
- the Community Play Service, which operates seven open access adventure playgrounds and a number of other facilities.

The Review will include consultation with young people, questionnaires to community groups and councillors and telephone surveys with Southwark residents through the People's Panel. The performance of Southwark services will be compared with other boroughs in London and elsewhere.

Key issues for the review include:

- pricing policies: after school charges of £10 per child per week are some of the lowest in London. Does the Working Families Tax Credit provide an opportunity to increase them without hitting the income of parents?
- who is the service for? The community after schools are free for parents on income support and students – should there be more of a focus on working parents?
- how can services be made more accessible for children with special needs?

If you have comments you would like to feed into this review but you have not received a questionnaire, please contact David Wallis on 020 7525 1504 e-mail david.wallis@southwark.gov.uk

Youth Service Review

A similar process is underway with Southwark's Youth Service, which aims to provide social, personal and political education to young people between the ages of 11-25 years (with a priority age group of 13-19).

The Youth Service manages seven youth centres and a number of projects providing outreach, school-based work, arts and media activities and so on. In addition 27 voluntary organisations receive grant funding.

Key issues for the review include:

- how effective is the youth service in meeting the needs of young people in terms of education, employment, training, health and youth crime?
- Is the current arrangement aligned to respond to the national agenda of social inclusion (e.g. behaviour support, youth justice, homelessness, drugs education);
- Are young people engaging in the democratisation process?
- Should the youth service concentrate on disadvantaged groups and young people involved in anti-social behaviour or should it meet the needs of the variety of young people in Southwark (targeted versus universal approach)?
- Is the current priority age range the right one? Should there be more of a focus on younger children?

The Youth Service Best Value Review is being managed by Karl Murray, Youth Service Manager, tel. 020 7525 1530, e-mail karl.murray@southwark.gov.uk

Children with Disabilities and Special Educational Needs

This is one strand of a wider two year review which will also look at services for disabled adults. Its focus is on services to identify, assess and provide support to children with disabilities and/or with a statement of special educational needs. Areas to be covered will include:

- The relationship between social services disabilities teams and other services for children in need;
- The appropriateness of provision (including different needs related to age, gender and ethnicity);
- How unmet need is identified and planned for;
- Transition from childhood and arrangements for take up of adult services;
- The absence of and potential for shared information systems;
- The resourcing and commissioning of services for children affected by HIV/AIDS;

The Best Value Review is starting with a Sub-Review on the identification of need, assessment and production of care/education plans for individual children in need.

Voluntary sector representation on the Children's Project Board includes Neil Gordon-Orr, Southwark Children and Families Alliance (020 7525 5859) and Linda Cleverly, Southwark Contact a Family (020 7277 4436).

Southwark Best Value Programme: Reviews likely to impact on services for children and young people

Year One (2000/1)

Services to identify, assess and provide support to children with disabilities and/or with a statement of special educational need.

Youth service

After school and play services.

Year Two (2001/2002)

Services for children and young people to prevent offending or involvement in other at risk activities (e.g. drugs, early sexual activity).

Services for children under 5 - access to and provision of day care and education services for children under 5 other than in schools, particularly in respect of children in need.

Child protection services - assessment, multi-agency working, service effectiveness.

Services to support school improvement.

Sport and recreation.

Year Three (2002/3)

Community Safety.

Arts.

Year Four (2003/4)

Special Educational Needs Transport;

Grants to voluntary organisations (where not covered by other reviews).

For a copy of the full Best Value Programme for Southwark contact Christine Coxen on 020 7525 3601

Early Years and Childcare News

Nursery Education Grant

Southwark Childcare First (the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership) has approved new criteria for the Nursery Education Grant for Three Year Olds, as follows:

- The Partnership supports the notion of free part-time early years education for all children aged 3 and wishes no child to be excluded from the possibility of securing a free, part-time early years education place, whether it be in the private, voluntary or statutory sector;
- The Partnership welcomes applications for the Nursery Education Grant for all 3-year-olds, from children attending voluntary sector pre-schools, community nurseries, early years centres, private nurseries or independent schools. In the case of independent schools only children resident in the borough of Southwark will be eligible.
- In the event that there are not enough resources available from Central Government to meet demand, criteria will be used to exclude those parents most able to afford fee-paying education. In this instance the Partnership would exclude resident children attending independent schools.

In the last year, Nursery Education Grant (NEG) of £1130 per child was granted for all three year old children in early years centres, voluntary sector community nurseries and pre-schools. However children attending private sector nurseries were only eligible if they met with 'children in need' criteria.

From next term private nurseries, as well as independent school nurseries, will be able to claim NEG for all three year olds and pass the benefits onto parents in the form of lower fees (if the child is at the nursery for more than 2.5 hours a day, parents will still have to pay for the additional hours).

It is hoped that more parents will now be able to access affordable childcare, and that early years provision (including a number of planned new voluntary sector nurseries) will be on a more secure financial footing.

Community Nurseries Support & Development Officer

Southwark Children and Families Alliance is recruiting a part time Community Nurseries Support and Development Officer, with funding from Southwark Early Years. The post will provide support to voluntary sector community nurseries on areas including organisational development, management and fundraising. Further details from Neil Gordon-Orr, 020 7252 5859.

Sure Start

Sure Start Southwark Aylesbury Plus

Sure Start Southwark Aylesbury Plus is providing a range of services for children under four and their families on the Aylesbury Estate and surrounding area. Recent developments include:

- Newpin Fathers Group Saturday Drop-in with activities for fathers and children (contact Celestine or Adam, 020 7740 8999).
- Speech and language therapy drop-in, Wednesdays 1.30 – 2.30 pm at Aylesbury Health Centre (contact Pauline St Leger or Marcia Mann, 020 7771 3900).
- New crèche at Southwark Black Women's Centre (020 7708 1643), to enable mothers to benefit from advice, counselling and other Centre services while their children play in safe surroundings.

On Wednesday 16 August 2000 Sure Start Southwark Aylesbury Plus is celebrating its first six months with Fun in the Park at Chumleigh Gardens in Burgess Park between 11 am and 3 pm. Alongside the music, clowns, stalls and games, Art in the Park will be unveiling their 'Circle of Life' bronze sculpture featuring the footprints of Sure Start parents and children.

For further information contact Sure Start Southwark Aylesbury Plus on 020 7771 3978.

Sure Start Southwark 2?

Southwark is to be invited to develop a second Sure Start programme. The first task will be to identify a suitable geographical area (guidance states that all parts of the area should be within 'pram-pushing' distance of each other), and to identify potential partners and lead agencies. Watch this space for further details.

Play News

Play Association for Southwark?

Amanda Brook-Chen, the consultant appointed by London Play to explore options for a play association for Southwark, is developing a draft work plan which will be circulated shortly for consultation. On the basis of discussions with a range of stakeholders she had determined that:

- there is a need for a project providing support to voluntary sector after school clubs and adventure playgrounds, and more generally raising the profile of play;
- such a project needs to have a clear and practical programme of work;
- establishing the project within an existing organisation would be preferable to starting a new organisation - the proposed host is Southwark Children and Families Alliance;
- potential funders were positive about funding such a project.

A number of people felt that the name 'Play Association' was not suitable. The proposed alternative is 'Play Connections'.

A meeting to discuss the work plan and agree the way forward for establishing the project will be held on Thursday 14th September, 2.00 pm in the Pod Meeting Room at the new Peckham Library.

Making Play Safer

The LSL Health Action Zone Making Play Safer Project is working with the Child Accident Prevention Trust to plan an autumn conference focusing on the health benefits of play and an update on play safety. For further information call 020 7716 7000 ext. 7419 or e-mail ian.sandford@ob.lslha.sthames.nhs.uk

Summer Holiday Activities

Southwark Leisure has published Enjoy Summer 2000 with details of a range of activities for children and young people. There are a huge range of opportunities to choose from, covering everything from sailing, cycling and other sports to puppets, pokemon and other make and play activities. Copies of Enjoy Summer 2000 are available from Southwark Leisure on 020 7525 1993. For information about holiday playschemes call the community team on 020 7525 1100.

Summer Play at Tate Modern

Tate Modern, the highly popular new museum of modern art on Southwark's Bankside, is offering free workshops tailor-made for playschemes throughout August. The workshops will use some of the art works on display to help children (5 years upwards) explore themes including Figure it Out, Thinking about Things, Earth Works and Histories and Hidden Stories. If you are interested in taking a group of children to one of these workshops (maximum group size 15) call the Tate Box Office on 020 7887 8888.

Southwark Children & Families Alliance Meeting

2.00 - 4.30 pm, Wednesday
September 20th 2000,
at Cambridge House
131 Camberwell Rd, SE5

Guest speaker:

**Romi Bowen,
New Assistant Director
(Children),
Southwark
Social Services**

Open to all voluntary organisations working with children and young people

Children in Southwark

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Neil Gordon-Orr

*Bringing together
voluntary organisations
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Private Sector Partner for Education

WS Atkins has been selected as the Private Sector Partner to work with Southwark's Local Educational Authority (LEA).

Following a critical OFSTED report of some parts of the LEA last year, KPMG consultants were appointed by Southwark and the Department for Education and Employment to assist in the 'outsourcing' process for the School Improvement Service and other LEA services. Two private companies were shortlisted, WS Atkins and Prospects, with the former being selected by Councillors at the July Ratification (Education) Sub-Committee.

Detailed negotiations are now underway about the details of the contract, but if all goes according to plan the management of the School Improvement Service will be transferred to WS Atkins before Christmas. Depending on how well WS Atkins perform, all education support services could be transferred by 2003, including Pupil Support & Special Educational Needs and Early Years. The Director of Education and a relatively small group of officers would remain with the Council, responsible for overall strategic direction.

WS Atkins is a management company whose main area of experience is in the engineering field. It has

been involved in projects such as nuclear power plants and road building (including the M11 Link Road in East London). Their appointment has been criticised by the trade union Southwark Unison who state that WS Atkins' educational experience is limited to running a schools bus service and building a school. Southwark have responded that WS Atkins are on the DfEE's approved list of education contractors and that they will be able to buy in educational management if needed.

For the voluntary sector a key concern will be that any new arrangements recognise the important contribution voluntary organisations make to education in Southwark.

Voluntary sector educational activities include special needs support, curriculum support, early years education and childcare, out of school learning and childcare, supplementary education, counselling and pupil support, arts and cultural activities, adult learning and more. Some of this activity is funded by Southwark Education and voluntary organisations will want re-assurance that funding and monitoring arrangements will not be adversely affected by the transfer of management functions to a private company.

Kickstart Youth Inclusion Project

Southwark's Youth Inclusion Project has recently secured £332,000 to help tackle youth crime on its housing estates. The Heygate, Rockingham, Lawson and Draper estates will all benefit from the money made available to Kickstart, a major initiative to prevent and reduce offending by young people in Southwark.

The Kickstart project, which has been funded with grants from the National Youth Justice Board and the Single Regeneration Budget, has been in operation since early this year. New funding will focus on young people aged 13 to 16 years who are most at risk of getting involved in crime, although the project works with 8-18 year olds.

Kickstart offers a wide range of activities, including sport, mentoring, homework support and skills training to help the young people to prepare for future employment. Over the next three years the project intends to work with up to 200 young people, this will also include 50 who have been assessed as being most at risk of offending and in need of intensive support.

Kickstart is being delivered by Crime Concern (a national voluntary organisation) in partnership with the Southwark Youth Offending Team, local Police and the Youth Service.

For details contact Gary Stannett or David Williams at Kickstart on 0207 357 6308.

Health News

Therapeutic crèches

Following a period of public consultation and negotiation, Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Health Authority Board have agreed not to close the therapeutic crèche at the Aylesbury Health Centre.

A special meeting of the Health Authority Board agreed to the following recommendations:

- Most crèche services in Lewisham will be transferred to the Early Years programme,
- Two whole time equivalent Paediatric Therapist posts will be created to work in the Lewisham crèches.
- To continue with the operation of the Aylesbury Crèche in Southwark
- That Community Health South London should work collaboratively with Early Years and Sure Start in Southwark and with the involvement of the Community Health Council to optimise resources and achieve improvement in services for very young children.

In addition, the Board decided that a joint mechanism between the health authority, community trust, local authority and CHC should be created to monitor the progress and quality of these services.

Therapy complaints

The July Board meeting of Community Health South London NHS Trust heard that there is still considerable dissatisfaction about delays in accessing therapeutic services for children with disabilities and special needs. Of 23 Southwark complaints received by the Trust between April and June 2000, 10 concerned paediatric speech and language therapy and two occupational therapy for children. Louise Parker, the Child Health Manager, is undertaking a review of children's therapy services across the Trust and will be making recommendations to the Health Authority, PCGs and Trust about how to reduce waiting times and improve the quality of services provided to children and young people.

Healthy Communities Fund

The Healthy Communities Fund, part of the Health Action Zone (HAZ) for Lambeth, Southwark & Lewisham has awarded its second round of grants totalling £90,600. The grants were awarded to 23 community projects under the small grants element of the fund. This provides grants of £1,000 to £5,000 to community groups with an income of under £30,000 whose activities improve the well being and health of children and young people. Among the successful Southwark-based groups were the following:

The African Women's Support Group, receives a grant of **£4,800** to run a conference on sexual health and teenage pregnancy aimed at 200 young people from the African community. The grant will also enable the group to pilot a telephone helpline providing young people with information on sexual health.

Ahkom Health, a small community group operating in Southwark, receives a grant of **£2,000**. This will be used to provide expenses to volunteers who provide advice and information on sexual health and HIV. The group works with young people from the African community through a programme of outreach work in clubs, social gatherings and other youth venues.

Children United Pop-In Centre, which provides activities for children living in North Peckham, receives a grant of **£1,500**. This will be used to purchase sports equipment for children to use at the group's after school club and holiday play scheme.

The Otter Canoe Group, which works with children with disabilities, receives a grant of **£5,000**. The grant will be used to take a group of 15 children with disabilities for a week's adventure holiday to the Isle of Wight.

Southwark Bereavement Care, which provides free counselling to individuals who are suffering bereavement or anticipating bereavement, receives a grant of **£3,000**. This will be used to make childcare available to a number of users of the group's service, and for the volunteer counsellors.

Southwark Women's Support Group receives a grant of **£3,650**. This will be used to provide workshops for young people in drama and story telling, dealing with issues related to health.

Zoom In Limited, a recently established group specialising in photographic and multimedia education, receives a grant of **£5,000**. The grant will enable the group to continue and develop its outreach programme in a wide range of youth venues across Southwark and Lambeth.

The 21st Camberwell Scout Group receives a grant of **£4,300**. They will use this to purchase camping equipment.

To request an application pack or for further information please contact the Fund on 020 7582 5117.

Early Years and Childcare News

Childcare and the NHS

The government's new National Health Service Plan sets out a commitment to invest in childcare in order to help recruit and retain staff. Plans include:

- Additional investment of over £30m by 2004 to provide for at least 100 more workplace nurseries in the NHS, at an average subsidy of £30 per place per week;
- Every NHS trust will have a childcare co-ordinator who can act as a parents' advocate for flexible working patterns. They will also co-ordinate the provision of nursery places and a network of secure provision for school-aged children drawing on after school clubs, local childminding networks and holiday play schemes to meet local needs.

'The NHS Plan: A Plan for Investment. A Plan for Reform' is available at www.nhs.uk/nhsplan

New Childcare Funds

- Southwark Childcare First is creating its own Small Childcare Grant programme. Voluntary or private organisations will be able to apply for small grants of up to £5000 to help expand childcare provision or to sustain existing provision. For instance the Small Childcare Grant could be used to convert premises to increase childcare places, to purchase equipment, to access business support or to market childcare provision. New organisations will be able to apply for setting up costs.
- The Department for Education and Employment have launched a new sustainability fund of £250,000 to support voluntary pre-schools and playgroups to develop new approaches that would enhance their longer term sustainability. Local Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships (EYDCPs) have been invited to submit proposals for projects using grants between £5,000 and £25,000, by 20 September 2000. This is in addition to the £500,000 that is available for special grants to groups facing short-term financial difficulties, which pre-schools should be receiving details about at the start of the Autumn term.

For details contact Sara Willis, 0207 525 5240, e-mail sara.willis@southwark.gov.uk

Connexions

Following on from the White Paper 'Learning to succeed', the Education and Employment Secretary, David Blunkett, unveiled a radical new youth support service for all 13 – 19 year olds in February 2000. It will be known as 'Connexions' and will be at the heart of the Government's Connexions Strategy, which is aimed at supporting young people.

The new service will be delivered primarily through a network of 'Personal Advisers' linking in with specialist support services. They will be drawn together from a range of existing public, private, voluntary and community sector organisations and build on best practice.

The key aim of the service will be to enable all young people to participate effectively in appropriate learning – whether in school, FE colleges, training provider or other community setting – by raising the aspirations so that they reach their full potential. Young people are expected to be actively involved in governance and management of the new service.

The co-ordination of the new service is to be based on local authority boundaries and co-terminous with Local Skills Councils (LSCs). Following a briefing meeting in July, an interim Local Management Committee (LMC) has been established to develop Connexions in Southwark.

Karl Murray, Youth Service Manager, is leading on the Connexions initiative for Southwark (tel. 7525 3402, e-mail: karl.murray@southwark.gov.uk).

Reusable Nappies

Southwark Council have produced a leaflet highlighting the environmental, health and cost benefits of re-usable nappies. Over 9 million disposable nappies are used in Britain every day, and a typical local authority spends £100,000 a year disposing of nappy waste.

The leaflet 'Real Nappies for Southwark Babies' includes details of reusable cotton nappies (now velcro fastening and easy to use unlike the old safety pin and terry towelling models!) and local nappy schemes that collect dirty nappies and deliver clean ones. The Council has negotiated discounts for Southwark residents with some nappy schemes.

Available from Julie Tallentire, 020 7525 2185 e-mail julietallentire@southwark.gov.uk

Play News

Play Connections

All voluntary sector after school clubs and play-grounds are invited to a meeting to agree the way forward (including the first year work plan) to establish Play Connections, the proposed new project to support local play providers and to raise the profile of play in Southwark.

Amanda Brook-Chen, a consultant employed by London Play, has drafted some detailed proposals with a view to getting the project up and running within the next year. Her paper is being circulated for consultation and will be discussed at the meeting. If you have not received a copy and would like one, please contact Neil Gordon-Orr, 020 7252 5859.

The meeting will be held on Thursday 14th September, 2.00 pm at Rockingham Estate Adventure Playground, 20 Dickens Square, London SE1 (not in Peckham Library - note change of venue).

London Adventure Play Awards

Southwark's Dog Kennel Hill Adventure Playground has won the first London Adventure Play Award for being the best playground in London. The awards have been established by London Play with sponsorship from Whitbread in the Community. The Award was presented by Simon Hughes MP in a Ceremony on August 2nd. 2nd Prize was shared by playgrounds in neighbouring boroughs - Kidsactive Charlie Chaplin Adventure Playground (Lambeth) and Horniman Adventure Playground (Lewisham).

Dog Kennel Hill Adventure Playground (0207 738 4272) was commended for its range of stimulating activities and for involving children in setting the Playground rules.

Thameslink fund Adventure Club

Southwark's Peckham Rye Adventure Club has been given a significant boost with an injection of £25,000 from Railtrack's Thameslink 2000 project community fund. The award will go towards the replacement of the 20-year old club building which has become badly run down. The club, which opened 30 years ago, provides supervised play for five to 15 year olds at weekends, after school and during school holidays. Contact Terry Jones, Senior Playworker on 0207 525 5638.

Domestic Violence

Bede Women's Development Project, Silwood Community Project and Time & Talents are holding 'Judy Punches Back', a domestic violence conference and information day on Wednesday 13 September at Bede Centre, Abbeyfield Road, SE16. The event will include a discussion on the impact of domestic violence on children, led by North Southwark Community Child and Family Service. Details from Bede Women's Development Project (020 7237 9162).

Southwark Children & Families Alliance Meeting

2.00 - 4.30 pm, Wednesday
September 20th 2000,
at Cambridge House
131 Camberwell Rd, SE5

Guest speaker:

**Romi Bowen,
New Assistant Director
(Children),
Southwark
Social Services**

*Open to all voluntary organisations working with
children and young people*

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No. 23 - September 2000

Children and Families Alliance: two years on

Southwark Children and Families Alliance has submitted its second year report to our funders, the National Lottery Charities Board, covering the period September 1999 - August 2000. In the two years since funding for the project was secured by Southwark Community Care Forum (SCCF), Southwark Children and Families Alliance has played a significant role in supporting the children's voluntary sector and promoting the rights and interests of children.

Our membership mailing list now includes 274 voluntary organisations working with children and young people in Southwark, including playgroups, nurseries, after school clubs, youth projects, family support organisations, groups working with children with disabilities and a range of others.

All receive our monthly newsletter 'Children in Southwark' with news on policy issues, service developments, and funding opportunities. In the last year this has been supplemented with a regular e-mail news bulletin and a website.

Alliance meetings

Six Alliance meetings in the past year have had a combined attendance of 101, with 53 different voluntary organisations taking part. These meetings have provided an opportunity for organisations to learn about the wide range of new local and government initiatives focusing on children, and to consider opportunities to get involved. Themes have included refugee children, teenage pregnancy, Best Value, voluntary sector funding, and Quality Protects with guest speakers from Southwark Council and the health service.

Meetings have featured report backs from key planning bodies for children such as the Children's Partnership Board and the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership, and have given voluntary organisations an opportunity to input into policy discussions.

Training

Our training programme was planned with SCCF's Training and Development Project on the basis of a Training Needs Questionnaire circulated to members. Specialist children's courses provided included: Introduction to the Children Act, Emergency First Aid for Children's Organisations; Children's Participation; and Meet the Funders seminars with BBC Children in Need and other charitable trusts funding children's services. These had a combined attendance of 77. In addition 113 places on SCCF's mainstream training programme were taken up by children's organisations, with 21 courses including employment law, introduction to supervision skills, Best Value, and unit costing.

Development Work

Opportunities arose in the last year to explore new initiatives focusing on the needs of voluntary sector community nurseries and out of school play providers. We led on a successful £77,000 Consortium Bid to the New Opportunities Fund Out of School Childcare Programme, and have developed proposals for a new support and development project for community nurseries. We have also been involved in exploring proposals for a Play Association in Southwark.

Southwark Children and Families Alliance actively encouraged voluntary organisations to develop service proposals for the Sure Start Southwark Aylesbury Plus programme. As a result the programme has some of the highest level of voluntary sector activity in the country, with 15 voluntary organisations now providing services for children aged 0-4 and their families.

Policy input

Southwark Children and Families Alliance is now represented on all key planning groups including the Children's Partnership Board, the Health Action Zone Partnership Board, the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (of which the Children and Families Policy Officer has been elected Vice-Chair) and Sure Start Southwark Aylesbury Plus Partnership Board (chaired by the Children and Families Policy Officer).

The Alliance has produced written responses to plans including Southwark's voluntary Sector fund-

(continued from page one)

-ing strategy and the proposed closure of special needs crèches. A paper on proposed changes in nursery funding was influential in preventing a cut in the voluntary sector budget.

The Alliance has also had an influence on national policy development through its membership of the National Council for Voluntary Child Care Organisations. We have taken part in NCVCCO discussions with the Department of Health about the Quality Protects Programme. An article profiling the children's voluntary sector in Southwark was published in the NCVCCO journal, Outlook.

Promoting children's participation

On behalf of Lambeth Southwark and Lewisham Health Action Zone, we commissioned Barnardo's to undertake a major review of children's participation in the three south London boroughs, with recommendations for how it might be further developed. The Children and Families Policy Officer helped with a major HAZ event for young people called 'having your say' and facilitated a workshop on children's participation at a National Children's Bureau seminar on children affected by HIV.

The Children and Families Policy Officer has also provided support as a steering group member to two innovative children's participation projects in Southwark - a peer education project on sexual health, and the child-to-child health promotion project. We have provided a training course with Save the Children on children's participation in voluntary organisations.

Future developments

The key priority in the next year is to secure funding for Southwark Children and Families Alliance after Lottery funding expires in August 2001.

The Alliance is in the process of recruiting a Community Nurseries Support and Development Officer to work alongside the Children and Families Policy Officer, Neil Gordon-Orr. Funding applications for a play project are also being developed.

A second Sure Start programme in Southwark (probably focused on East Peckham) will provide new opportunities for organisations working in that area. Social services-funded children's organisations may need support to enter into new contracts.

The Alliance Advisory Group met for the first time in August. One suggestion from this meeting was for the Alliance to hold seminars focusing on particular issues, with presentations, discussion and agreed action plans. The first of these, on school exclusions, is being planned for November 22nd 2000.

Early Years and Childcare News

Childcare Job Search Skills

Southwark Early Years is running Job Search Skills courses for anyone interested in, or pursuing a career in childcare. The two day courses, which are funded by Focus Central London TEC, will cover how to fill in application forms, preparing a CV and interview skills. Courses will take place on 4th/5th October, 31st October/1st November and 12th/13th December at the Education Resource Centre, Cator Street. For further information contact Bonnie Royal in Early Years on 0207 525 5169.

Sure Start Southwark Aylesbury Plus

Sure Start Southwark Aylesbury Plus celebrated its first six months with a successful Fun Day in Burgess Park on 16th August. Activities for children included face painting, music workshops (run by 'Child and Sound') and much more. The event featured the opening of 'Circle of Life', a bronze sculpture by Art in the Park featuring the footprints of Sure Start children and parents. There were also stalls with information about the range of Sure Start services for young children and their families. Up to 1500 people attended the event and there was very positive feedback from participating families.

Sure Start will be launching its Parents Handbook at the Aylesbury Health Centre on Tuesday 26th September, 4.30 - 6.00 pm. Details from Aileen McWey on 020 7771 3978.

Sure Start Southwark 2

Southwark has been invited to develop proposals for a second Sure Start programme in the borough to support children aged 0-4 and their families. A group with representatives from Social Services, Early Years, Community Health South London NHS Trust and Southwark Children and Families Alliance has provisionally agreed that the focus should be the East Peckham area, on the basis of the high levels of deprivation in the Friary and Consort wards. A confirmation of interest has been submitted to the national Sure Start Unit. The next stage is to consult with parents and local organisations to develop an outline delivery plan by 2 November 2000. Contact Neil Gordon-Orr for further details (020 7252 5859).

Funding News

- Celena Nair, SCCF Fundraising Information Officer

Help with applications

Funderfinder have developed a new free software package called **Apply Yourself** to help people write funding applications. Grant seekers can use the software to draft a letter or proposal to funders. The software provides guidance as to what should be included in the application as you write. The program will run on any PC using Windows 3.1x or higher. The disk is available for 50p to cover postage from Funderfinder, 65 Raglan Rd, Leeds, LS2 9DZ or alternatively it can be downloaded from the website, www.funderfinder.org.uk

UIA Charitable Foundation

The foundation was set up in 1999 funded by donations from the mutual insurance company UIA. It gives grants to causes that fit in with the ethos of the trade union movement and has a particular focus on charities that take action on social issues that may not otherwise be addressed. The foundation's preferred areas of funding include children, as well as poverty relief, debt counselling, homelessness, and drugs and alcohol. For further details contact: Andrew Gay, UIA Charitable foundation, Kings Court, London Rd, Stevenage, Herts. SG1 2TP, tel: 01438 761761, fax: 01438 761762, e-mail: andrewgay@uia.co.uk

Music funding

The National Foundation For Youth Music launched its grants programme on 1st June 2000. It aims to enable organisations who work with young people to build their capacity to make music, with three main schemes: music making activities with children and young people aged up to 18; children and young people whose opportunities to make music are limited; and music making from a wide range of cultures, traditions and styles. Contact National Foundation of Youth Music, 40 Brunswick Square, London, WC1N 1AU tel 020 7841 0800, e-mail nfym@youthmusic.org.uk, or see their website www.youthmusic.org.uk

The Performing Rights Foundation: The aim of this new foundation is to encourage, promote and sustain music creation at all levels. The foundation has £1 million available, with areas of support including formal and informal education. The foundation is prepared to fund festivals and actively supports joint working between schools and community groups. For further information contact Rachel Nelken, Administrator, The Performing Rights Foundation, 020 7306 4231

Sainsburys Community Affairs Programme

Sainsburys aims to support local communities by working directly with local groups in a variety of ways e.g. fundraising, charitable donations, sponsorship, volunteering and employee secondments. The range of work supported includes projects focusing on families and young children. Contact the Community Affairs department on 020 7695 7891 or alternatively ask the branch manager at your local store.

Share the Care

As part of the National Share the Care Week [18th-24th September], the Family Link at Capital Carers is launching a recruitment campaign to ask people to "Give a Little Time and Make a Big Difference". The campaign aims to recruit people of all ages and backgrounds to look after children with disability for short breaks. Currently Southwark has a huge number of children who are waiting for a service.

Chryseus Yamaguchi, the Family Link Development Worker says: "Becoming a Link Carer is a wonderful, rewarding way of helping out a family, sharing your time and skills, at the same time as having some fun and doing something important for your community." In the words of one Link Carer: "I'd say to anyone thinking of becoming a Link Carer- have a go! Family Links are a vital service for both parents and children. They are about friendship and happy times."

If you would like to find out more, please call Chryseus Yamaguchi on 020 7793 0966.

Leaving Care Careers Fair

On 1st August Southwark's Education Project and Leaving Care Team held a Southwark Careers Fair aimed at 14 - 21 year olds who have been in or are currently looked after by the local authority. Staff at the event at Dulwich Leisure Centre offered one-to-one advice on a variety of vocational training options, and on how to apply for further and higher education. Local voluntary organisation 'Faces in Focus' provided advice about seeking housing accommodation and applying for welfare benefits. For more information, contact Lorna Celair, tel: 020 7525 0174 or Veronica Miller tel: 020 7525 3667.

Children's Participation

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) have produced a pack for voluntary organisations called **Youth on Board: getting young adults involved in decision making**. The pack includes information on the advantages of voluntary organisations having young people on their management committees, their support needs and their legal position. A number of case studies are included. Details from NCVO, 020 7713 6161.

Youthagenda: A good practice guide to working with young people on their home ground is aimed at anyone working on housing estates: managers, housing officers, tenants and residents. The booklet is available from the Centre for Social Action, De Montford University, Scraptoft, Leicester LE7 9SU (price £5, cheque to 'De Montford Expertise', free to Registered Social Landlords).

Youth Forum

The Voluntary Sector Youth Forum has recently been established with the aim of being a collective voice for voluntary sector youth agencies, and to influence policy development in Southwark. The next meeting takes place on Tuesday 26 September, 5.00 pm at Westminster House Youth Club, 29 Nunhead Grove, SE15 3LZ. For further information please contact Selina Rice on 020 7635 9732 or Mark Blundell on 020 7237 3788.

Adventure Playgrounds

Playlink have produced a new leaflet 'London's Adventure Playgrounds: wonderful places to play' with details of all the adventure playgrounds in London, including nine in Southwark. The leaflet points out that these playgrounds provide 'school-aged children with opportunities to play that they simply cannot get elsewhere in our busy, urban environment... oases where children can take risk and have adventures, safe in the knowledge that professional help is there if it is needed'.

The leaflet is available from Playlink on 020 7820 3800 or e-mail info@playlink.org.uk

School term dates

Southwark's school term dates for 2000/2001 will be: 4th September – 20th December 2000, 4th January – 6th April 2001 and 23rd April – 23rd July 2001. Half term holidays are weeks starting 23rd October, 19th February and 28th May.

Southwark Children & Families Alliance Meetings

2.00 - 4.30 pm, Wednesday September 20th 2000, at Cambridge House, 131 Camberwell Rd, SE5

Guest speaker:

Romi Bowen, Assistant Director (Children), Southwark Social Services

plus: funding news, Sure Start

2.00 - 4.30 pm, Wednesday November 22nd 2000 (venue to be confirmed)

School exclusions: the role of the voluntary sector

Open to all voluntary organisations working with children and young people

Children in Southwark

Southwark Children and Families Alliance,
Southwark Community Care Forum,
1 Grosvenor Terrace, SE5 0NR

Tel. 020 7252 5859

Fax. 020 7703 7661

e-mail: neil@southwark-children.freeserve.co.uk

website: www.southwark-children.freeserve.co.uk

Children & Families Policy Officer:
Neil Gordon-Orr

*Bringing together
voluntary organisations
to promote
the rights and interests
of children in Southwark*



Children in Southwark

Newsletter of Southwark Children and Families Alliance/SCCF

No. 24 - October 2000

Sure Start in East Peckham

Sure Start is a government-funded initiative aiming to improve the health and well-being of children under four and their families. With one programme already up and running in the Aylesbury Plus area, work is now progressing on developing a second Sure Start programme in Southwark focused on the East Peckham area.

A key first task has been to define a catchment area. The national Sure Start Unit would not give the go ahead to all of Friary and Consort wards being included, as this would include more children under four than the maximum 800 allowed. The proposal now is to include all of Consort (where there is very little early years provision) and part of Friary including the Bells Garden estate and the area to the south of Goldsmith Road.

The next step is to involve the local community in drawing up a plan setting out what services will be provided. As is often the case with government initiatives there is a very tight timescale that makes genuine community involvement difficult. An outline plan has to be submitted by 2 November 2000, with a final delivery plan by 25 January 2001.

Opportunities for the voluntary sector

Guidance from the national Sure Start Unit is very clear that Sure Start Partnerships 'should include locally-based voluntary organisations and community groups that work with children and young people' and that 'This should always include groups which work with black and minority ethnic families and children'. Now is the time for local voluntary organisations to begin thinking about what role they might play in the Sure Start Programme.

Broadly speaking there are two categories of voluntary organisations that should consider getting involved:

- organisations currently working with children and families within the catchment area (this could include organisations based just outside the area but who are working with significant numbers within the area);

- organisations providing specialist services elsewhere in Southwark which could be developed within the catchment area.

Voluntary organisations, like other agencies, could provide services in the following areas:

- outreach and home visiting (including contact before birth and home contact after birth);
- support to families and parents (e.g. befriending and social support, parenting groups);
- play, learning and childcare;
- primary and community health care;
- specialised services, include special needs support;
- special services for teenage parents;
- additional services including housing, money and employment advice.

Revenue funding for the programme as a whole could be in the region of £700,000 a year, tailing off gradually after three years. Up to £700,000 is also available for capital expenditure.

Potential partners need to be aware though that Sure Start is not just a funding stream. All organisations involved, whether voluntary or statutory, will be expected to play an active role in the partnership and to develop new ways of closer interagency working.

Initial work on Sure Start in Peckham has been taken forward by a small steering group with representation from health, early years, social services and the voluntary sector. A wider range of partners are now invited to get involved, with the next meeting taking place on **Thursday 19th October, 2.30 pm, at Peckham Settlement, Goldsmiths Road, SE15.**

If you want to be added to the mailing list to receive papers about Sure Start in Peckham, contact Jas-pal Bhamra at Southwark Social Services (0207 525 3935).

A consultant is being appointed to develop the delivery plan. In the mean time support for voluntary organisations to begin developing proposals will be available from Neil Gordon-Orr (Southwark Children and Families Alliance, 020 7252 5859) and Keith Thompson (Southwark Action for Voluntary Organisations, 020 7252 8733).

Supporting prisoners' families

Prisoners' Families and Friends Service, a Southwark-based voluntary organisation, is holding its annual general meeting on Monday 6th November 2000 at Montague Chambers, Southwark Cathedral (6.30 pm start). The guest speaker will be Juliet Lyon, Director, Prison Reform Trust, who will be speaking on 'Too much, too young? Children and young people in prison and their families'.

PFFS aims to provide the families and friends of anyone sentenced to imprisonment or remanded in custody with:

- advice and information;
- assistance at court;
- support and friendship.

Its services include a national telephone helpline (0808 808 3444, 10 am - 5 pm, Monday to Fridays), specially trained volunteers to provide assistance at London Crown Courts, and home visitors to support families in the London area. Volunteers are always needed for the home visiting and court projects, with training provided several times a year - please contact the office for more details if you are interested.

PFFS runs a weekly drop-in for families at its Swan Centre in Southwark. Activities here include workshops to promote personal development, social activities and a clothing and toy store. Summer holidays and day trips are provided for prisoners' families who would not otherwise have the chance to go away, with funding from BBC Children in Need and others.

Recently Tim Bower worked at the Swan Centre with a group of parents and carers of adolescents affected by the imprisonment of a family member to produce a study about their needs. Issues identified include problems with confidentiality at some benefits offices and doctors' surgeries, and a lack of support and understanding from schools. For a full copy of the report, send an A4 SAE to PFFS. Workshops for women suffering from depression due to a family member's imprisonment have been arranged with the Depression Alliance.

For further information contact: Prisoners' Families and Friends Service, 20 Trinity Street, London SE1 1DB (tel. 0207 403 4091/9359, fax. 0207 357 9722, e-mail pffs@btclick.com

Health news

Primary Care Trusts

Just when you were getting used to Primary Care Groups, a new organisational change is on the horizon for the NHS. Primary Care Trusts will be new, free-standing, statutory bodies responsible for delivering better health and better care to their local population. They will supersede the current Primary Care Groups and take on many of the functions presently exercised by health authorities, such as commissioning health services. They may develop to become "level 4" Primary Care Trusts and take on responsibility for the provision of community health services such as health visiting.

In Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham a visioning exercise is currently underway to look at how Primary Care Trusts might work locally. Issues include what functions local Trusts might exercise and what their geographical boundaries should be. For instance should there be a single Primary Care Trust for Southwark or should there be one for North Lambeth and North Southwark and another for the south of the two boroughs?

Voluntary organisations are being invited to contribute to these discussions at an event on Wednesday November 29th 2000, 10am to 2pm at Cambridge House, 131 Camberwell Road, SE5. The event is being organised by Southwark Action for Voluntary Organisations and Southwark Community Care Forum and will include a Southwark Children and Families Alliance workshop looking at the implications for children's services.

For further information contact Ros Band at SAVO on 020 7703 8733 or e-mail roslyn@savo.org.uk

The Walk-In Centre Project

North Southwark Primary Care Group and South Bank University have teamed up to look at the possibility of setting up a walk-in centre in north Southwark. A walk-in centre provides health information and treatment for minor conditions, often without the need for an appointment. The aim is to be accessible to local people and to provide services that they need.

The project is currently seeking to establish whether a walk-in centre could be set up, what services it should provide, which staff would be needed, where it would be best placed and how it could fit in with existing services. If you have any views on how a walk-in centre could meet the needs of children, young people and their families, or would just like further information, please contact Antonia Beringer on 020 7815 8486 or e-mail a.beringer@dial.pipex.com

Early Years and Childcare News

Play at the Tate Modern

Tate Modern, together with Southwark Childcare First, is organising a number of tailor made training days for playworkers and childminders working with children over 5. The sessions will focus on developing ideas and skills for using art in after school clubs and other settings, including interacting with the works of art at the Tate Modern. The next training day is on Monday 27th November 10.00 am - 2.00 pm (includes a working lunch). A number of extra sessions will take place in January and March 2001. Workshops are free, although a returnable deposit of £10 is required to secure a place. To book a place, contact Sara Willis on 020 7525 5240.

National Daycare Standards

The September meeting of Southwark Childcare First, the early years and childcare development partnership, discussed the consultation document from the Department for Education and Employment on the new national standards for the regulation of day care. There was general support for the principle of having national standards for nurseries and childminders across England to replace local standards which vary from one authority to another. However there was concern that some of the proposed standards represent a diminishing in the quality of childcare from what is currently required in Southwark and many other areas.

The National Childminding Association is particularly concerned about the proposal that childminders will be able to smack children and smoke in front of children if parents say it's OK. NCMA state that "this is really bad news for children and for child minders too. It threatens the professional image of child minding" since no other childcare workers would be able to smack or smoke. It also undermines health messages about the impact of smoking on children and would effectively involve the state granting a licence to hit children to a particular group of childcare providers.

The consultation document is available from DFEE publications, telephone 0845 602 2260 or on the internet at www.dfes.gov.uk/daycare. The consultation ends on 31st October 2000.

First Steps

Southwark Education has produced a new edition of the First Steps booklet, providing information about childcare services in Southwark. The booklet lists various types of childcare by postcode area including nurseries, playgroups and after school clubs. It also includes information about other local services such as libraries and health centres. Copies are available from Southwark Childcare Information Service, 020 7525 5189.

Unison Childcare Survey

Southwark Unison, the main trade union for public and voluntary sector workers, is undertaking a survey of its Southwark Council members' childcare needs. Its questionnaire asks about the cost and availability of childcare and also about issues such as paid care leave for sick children. Unison will be using the results of its a survey to develop its agenda on family friendly policies in the workplace. For further information contact Unison on 020 7708 0232.

Black History Month

October is Black History Month, with Southwark events focusing on children and families including:

Voices Together - celebrating 25 years of Supplementary Education in Southwark, with exhibition of children's arts, speakers, entertainment and multicultural feast. October 27th, 5 - 8 pm at Sojourner Truth Centre, 161 Sumner Road, SE15 (details from Lucy Hall, 020 7252 8082).

Black Parents Holistic Health Day - 'black parents liberating their children's minds by means of education, spiritual cultivation, health and nutrition'. October 28th, 11 am - 9 pm at Sojourner Truth Centre, 161 Sumner Road, SE15 (details from Uanu Seshmi or Decima Francis 020 7277 0448).

For a full programme of events contact the Equalities Unit on 020 7525 7103.

Combating Racism in Southwark

Black and Asian Women's Network has launched the report of its 'Combating Racism in Southwark Conference' held in March 2000, which was attended by more than 200 women. Education is a key theme of the report, with recommendations covering school exclusions, racist bullying, teaching black history and other issues. The report is available from the Black and Asian Women's Network, 3rd Floor, SE15 5BS (tel. 0207 7655 8882).

Social Services: New Assessment Framework

Southwark Social Services is working towards implementing the new framework for the assessment of children in need launched by the Department of Health earlier in the year. The framework is designed to improve the process of assessment for vulnerable children and their families, and will have implications for all agencies working with these children including voluntary organisations.

Social Services are circulating newsletters explaining about the new assessment framework and have arranged a training programme. Voluntary organisations may be interested in taking part in an Interagency Assessment Awareness Day - two such training sessions have been arranged for November 8th and November 13th. To book a place contact Sandra Wallace-Milwood in the Social Services Training Section on 0207 525 3781.

Copies of Southwark Social Services Assessment Framework newsletter are available from Keith Bootle on 020 7525 3801. The Framework itself is available on the internet at www.open.gov.uk/doh/quality.htm

Southwark and Camberwell Welcare

Southwark and Camberwell Welcare Association held an open day on Thursday 12 October 2000 at its centre at All Saints Hall, Surrey Square, SE17 2JU. Welcare is a Christian voluntary organisation offering a child-focused, non-discriminatory social work service to parents and children in Southwark. Its objectives include promoting good parenting, preventing family breakdown, enhancing family functioning and creating chances for children.

Activities include a parents support group, holiday playschemes, after school club and a new Generation Link scheme funded by Sure Start which matches volunteers of a grandparent age to young families. For a copy of their annual report or further details call Valerie Hambelton, Team Manager on 020 7701 4904.

Regeneration Funding

Southwark Council Regeneration is changing the way in which it provides its Sustainable Southwark Grants to the voluntary sector, including youth projects. If you want to have your say on what you think the priorities are and to learn about how to access the funding come along to an event on Thursday 16th November, 10am to 1pm at Cambridge House. This event is being organised by SAVO and the London borough of Southwark. For further details contact Rita Chatzonikoli 020 7525 2132.

Southwark Children & Families Alliance Meeting

2.00 - 4.30 pm, Wednesday
November 22nd 2000 at Walworth
Road Methodist Centre,
54 Camberwell Road, SE5

School exclusions: the role of the voluntary sector

Issues to be discussed will include preventative work in early years and primary schools; support to parents and children in the exclusion process; working with children in out-of-school settings; issues for different minority ethnic communities.

The panel of speakers will include representatives from Southwark Education, the SPACES project at Southwark Black Women's Centre and Place to Be (other contributions welcome).

Children in Southwark

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Children & Families Policy Officer:
Neil Gordon-Orr

*Bringing together
voluntary organisations
to promote
the rights and interests
of children in Southwark*



Children in Southwark

Newsletter of Southwark Children and Families Alliance/SCCF

No. 25 - November 2000

Pool of London Partnership

The Pool of London Partnership is a regeneration initiative focusing on an area stretching from London Bridge to beyond Tower Bridge on both sides of the River Thames. It involves the London boroughs of Southwark and Tower Hamlets, the Corporation of London and other agencies in the area.

A number of projects impacting on children and young people in Southwark are currently being developed, including:

- The Baylis Programme at English National Opera has undertaken in-school residencies in a number of North Southwark schools. For instance, ten music workshops were provided for sick children at Guy's Evelina Hospital School, culminating in the production of a songbook and tape;
- The Alfred Salter Playground is being redesigned with the installation of new improved play facilities, seating, lighting and public art;
- Home School Liaison - three home-school liaison officers have been employed by Southwark Council to improve links between the schools, parents and the community. Their key objectives are to improve attendance and reduce the risks of pupils being excluded from school;
- Effective Learning School Literacy Project - The Partnership supports literacy programmes at Grange, Snowfields, and Tower Bridge primary schools, where support is provided for children and their parents with English as a second language.
- Citizenship in Schools Programme - Southwark Education Business Alliance is leading on the design of a school-based programme to develop knowledge and understanding of legal, political, social, economic and constitutional systems and improve educational attainment. Activities will include the production of a video and publication focussing on the issues of regeneration written and produced by primary and secondary schools in the area;
- Childcare Strategy: A childminding network is planned, and the Ark at Charterhouse in Southwark is to be completely refurbished to create space for a new nursery. The Partnership is also implementing the "Time for Change" policy of persuading businesses to adopt family friendly policies for staff.

For a copy of the Pool of London annual report call 020 7407 4701, email enquiries@pool-of-london.co.uk or see www.pool-of-london.co.uk

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund

Southwark is in line to receive up to £15 million over three years from the government's new Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF).

The purpose of the NRF is to reduce inequality and improve service delivery in the most deprived wards and neighbourhoods.

Several of the national targets are relevant to children and young people including improving educational performance, narrowing the health gap in childhood between different socio-economic groups and different parts of the country, and ensuring that all social housing is of a decent standard by 2010.

A key role in developing a local neighbourhood renewal strategy will be taken by a new Local Strategic Partnership, which will bring together statutory, private and voluntary sectors.

Southwark voluntary organisations are invited to attend a briefing on **Neighbourhood Renewal in Southwark and the formation of a Local Strategic Partnership**. This will take place on 14 December 2000, 6.30 - 8.30 pm, at the Education Resource Centre, Cator Street SE15 6AA. Refreshments will be available from 6.00 pm.

Councillor Joan Khachik, Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, will introduce the meeting.

If you are interested in attending please contact Southwark Council Grants and Community Safety Unit, West House, Peckham Town Hall, London SE5 8UB (tel. 020 7525 7419).

Sure Start

Sure Start Aylesbury Plus

Sure Start Aylesbury Plus is focusing at present on securing the best possible buildings and spaces for children and families in the redevelopment of the Aylesbury Estate. Sure Start is already providing a range of services that have reached over 900 children under four and their families, but many are in buildings that are far from ideal or even fit for the purpose.

A report commissioned by Sure Start from the Daycare Trust identifies a need for spaces for parents and children together; places to provide training opportunities for parents with childcare support; facilities for expectant mothers and fathers; spaces to provide holistic health activities; flexible daycare provision; and safe outdoor playspaces for young children.

Sure Start Aylesbury Plus is now discussing with the New Deal for Communities how these needs might be met in the redevelopment of the Aylesbury area.

Millennium Babies Wood

Sure Start Aylesbury Plus is inviting parents and others to plant a tree in Burgess Park to celebrate the birth of children born in the year 2000. All are welcome to come along to Chumleigh Gardens on Saturday 2nd December 2000, 12 pm to 3pm. A professional photographer will take photos of parents and babies to include in a special celebratory book. Musical entertainment, hot food and drink and baby changing facilities will be provided in a heated marquee.

Date for your diary: 8th February 2001 - Celebration of First Year and First Annual Conference for Sure Start Aylesbury Plus, at Glaziers Hall near London Bridge.

Sure Start in East Peckham

An Outline Plan for a new Sure Start programme in Friary and Consort wards has been submitted to the national Sure Start Unit. The next step is for organisations working in the area to develop proposals for services to support children under four and their families. On the basis of these a detailed Delivery Plan will be completed in January 2001. For further information contact Jaspal Bhamra at Southwark Social Services on 020 7525 3935.

Funding news

Healthy Communities Fund

The Health Action Zone Healthy Communities Fund provides grants to community groups and voluntary organisations whose activities improve the well being and health of children and young people. In the latest round Southwark organisations were successful in both the small grants (£1,000 to £5,000) and large grants (£5,000 to £35,000) categories.

The **Bengali Women's Group** based at the Rockingham Community Centre, receives a two-year grant of **£55,767** to employ a Family Support Worker to work with Bangladeshi mothers and raise their skills and knowledge around parenting.

Black Organisation For Learning Difficulties receives a grant of **£4,960** to run health awareness and exercise sessions for young black people with learning difficulties and multiple disabilities.

Sherrie Eugene Community Deaf Association, based in Southwark, receives a grant of **£4,932** to run a support group and activities for the hearing children of deaf parents and hearing siblings with deaf sisters and/or brothers.

African Research & Information Bureau receives a grant of **£2,500** to raise awareness of alcohol and drug abuse amongst young people from West African communities.

The **Parent Teacher Association at Charlotte Sharman School**, based in Southwark, receives a grant of **£1,000** to provide cycle training for 120 children.

Application forms are available from Mubin Haq at the South East London Community Foundation on 0207 582 5117, fax 0207 582 4020, e-mail mubin@selcf.globalnet.co.uk

For a response by March 2001, groups will need to submit their small grants applications by the end of January. The deadline for the next large grants round in March 2001 is 15 January 2001.

Smoking Cessation

The Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Health Action Zone has funding available for outreach support for young people in 'hard-to-reach' communities to help them stop smoking. For further information contact Jenni Duck, LSL HAZ Smoking Cessation Co-ordinator on 020 7716 7000. If you are interested, you will need to hurry - the closing date is 29 November 2000.

Early Years and Childcare News

New Nurseries Support Officer

Diane M. Ryken, the new Community Nurseries Support and Development Officer based at Southwark Children and Families Alliance, introduces herself:

Southwark is a new borough for me to be working in. I am very happy to be based at the Alliance and looking forward to meeting people and getting to understand Southwark's approach to early years provision and the particular issues which the voluntary sector community nurseries face.

For 20 years I have worked in a variety of early years settings and with a range of services, including day nurseries, pre-school playgroups, after school and holiday schemes, parent and toddler groups, community development projects with minority ethnic communities, a linked childminder scheme and crèches for parent training. Most of the time, my work has been within the voluntary sector and as a manager of services. Work with under-5's and their families is my particular interest. Most recently I have been the Director of Soho Family Centre in central London.

We all know that this is a time of great opportunity for childcare but also that it is often difficult to keep up with the ambitious pace of change which the Government has set. I hope as we get to know each other, I can be of real support to you in this and other tasks. I look forward to getting around and visiting each of the nurseries in the coming weeks. Please do not hesitate to contact me in the meantime on 020 7525 5859.

New Opportunities Fund

Six bids from Southwark Result were successful in the latest round of the New Opportunities Fund Out of School Childcare Programme: Children United Centre £8,200; Kids Company £50,000; Joshu Foundation Trust Super Kids £25,250; Trinity Child Carer Service £20,200; and Trios Childcare Service £28,538. If you need assistance to apply for NOF Funding call David Wallis or Esther Asamoah on 020 7525 1504.

DfEE Childcare Grant for Southwark

Southwark Childcare First, the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership, is to receive a substantial increase in its Childcare Grant from the Department for Education and Employment to develop accessible, good quality childcare for children aged 0-14. Next year's allocation is £589,000 including ringfenced amounts for children with special needs, childminding start up grants, children's information services and training.

As outlined at the DfEE's Partnerships Planning Conference on 1 November, local Partnerships will also have a greater say in how the New Opportunities Fund Out of School Childcare Programme spends its money locally. The DfEE will also be making funding available in Southwark through the new Grant for Disadvantaged Area Childcare Initiative. It is planned to open nationally the equivalent of 900 new 50 place nurseries over the next three years by providing pump priming running costs.

Southwark Childcare First will be considering its priorities for next year at its meeting on Monday December 11th 2000. Further details from Sara Willis, 020 7525 5240.

Events

STAG launch

Southwark Travellers Action Group (STAG) is holding a grand launch from 10am – 2pm on Tues. 21st November at Peckham Settlement, Goldsmith Road, SE15. For details contact Sarah Wrightman, 020 7639 1823.

Primary Care

A voluntary sector debate on the new Primary Care Trusts takes place on Wed. November 29th 2000, 10am to 2pm at Cambridge House, SE5. The event will include a workshop on children's services. For further information contact Ros Band at SAVO on 020 7703 8733.

Banner exhibition

An exhibition of printed banners created by young people from Peckham (aged 14-18) takes place at the New Peckham Library from the 15-22 November. The banners reflect different experiences of living or going to school in Peckham. Details from Groundwork Southwark, 020 7252 7666.

AGMs

Plough Redemption Foundation Trust, 2 December, 2-5 pm, Peckham Pulse (tel. 020 7525 5999). Plough provide before and after school clubs.

Camberwell After School Project, 25 November, 4.00 pm, 14 Badsworth Rd, SE5 (tel. 020 7708 2711). CASP provide a playgroup, after school clubs and holiday schemes.

Social Services Inspection

During January 2001 Southwark Social Services will be visited by inspectors from the Social Services Inspectorate (SSI) at the Department of Health. The inspection will be looking at the way services are delivered to support families, to safeguard children in need of protection and to plan for children 'looked after' by social services.

The inspection team will look at files, read policies and procedures and meet with service users, staff and partner agencies. The inspectors will then write a report saying what they think is good about the arrangements in Southwark and what needs to change. The report will be publicly available.

Southwark Children and Families Alliance will be contacting voluntary organisations to let them know how they can feed their views into the process, as soon as details are clear.

Southwark Contact a Family

Contact a Family Southwark have published a new leaflet for parents explaining about the advice, information and support they provide for the families of children with a disabilities or special needs. The leaflet includes summaries in 7 community languages. Available from Contact a Family Southwark, Walworth Methodist Church, 54 Camberwell Road, SE5 OEN (tel. 020 7277 4436, email Southwark@cafamilly.org.uk)

Connexions

Connexions is the new youth support service for 13-19 year olds. All voluntary organisations are invited to a seminar to find out about Connexions, the development of the Southwark project, the role and work of Personal Advisers and other issues.

The seminar takes place from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm on Tuesday 23 January 2001 at the Oasis Centre, 115 Southwark Bridge Road, SE1. If you are interested in attending please contact Claudette Samules on 020 7525 5391 / 020 7525 3933. A full programme will be sent to you at a later date.

Home Energy Efficiency Grants

Families with children under 16 and claiming benefits can claim a grant of up to £1000 to make their homes warmer, more energy efficient and more secure. The Government's Home Energy Efficiency Scheme is managed in London by the Eaga Partnership, who will arrange for qualified local companies to carry out the work. For details of eligibility and other information call freephone 0800 316 6011.

Southwark Children & Families Alliance Meeting

2.00 - 4.30 pm, Wednesday
November 22nd 2000 at Walworth
Road Methodist Centre,
54 Camberwell Road, SE5

School exclusions: the role of the voluntary sector

Issues to be discussed will include preventative work in early years and primary schools; support to parents and children in the exclusion process; working with children in out-of-school settings; issues for different minority ethnic communities.

The panel of speakers will include June Marsh (Southwark Education), Louise O'Connor (South London Family Service Unit), Kathy West (Camberwell Advocacy Office), the SPACES project at Southwark Black Women's Centre, Kids Company and Place to Be.

Children in Southwark

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Community Nurseries Support
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Diane Ryken

*Bringing together
voluntary organisations
to promote
the rights and interests
of children in Southwark*



Children in Southwark

Newsletter of Southwark Children and Families Alliance/SCCF

No. 26 - December 2000

Child Poverty in Southwark

The tragic death of 10 year old Damilola Taylor in Peckham has quite rightly attracted national attention. It would be even more shocking if such a death were to be met with national indifference, as seems to be already the case with the (barely reported) murder of older teenagers in this part of the world.

Nevertheless the press coverage has left many local people uncomfortable, as journalists and other pundits queue up to hang their pet theory on the tragedy with scant attention to the reality of life in Peckham. But if some of the reporting has been excessively negative and simplistic in its attribution of blame, we should not go to the opposite extreme and deny that the situation facing children and young people in Peckham (and many other local areas) is a disgrace.

There is abundant evidence of this in the new Southwark Social Inclusion Data File. This brings together a range of statistics on the local population, including the Department of Education, Transport and the Regions (DETR) Indices of Deprivation. These rank wards across the country in terms of income, housing, employment, access to services and other factors.

The DETR's Child Poverty Index shows the percentage of children in each ward that live in families that claim means tested benefits (Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance, Family Credit and Disability Working Allowance).

The Peckham wards of Liddle, Friary and Consort all feature in the top 10% nationally. Liddle ward is the worst off in Southwark, with 62.1% of dependent children and young people living in families claiming means tested benefits. Rotherhithe - wrongly perceived by many as an area of great affluence - is actually the second worst off in Southwark, with 58.9% of children in families claiming means tested benefits.

Over half of Southwark's wards (including all of those in central Peckham) are in the top 10% of wards in the country with the highest income deprivation; almost all of Southwark is in the top 10% for housing deprivation.

Local health statistics tell a similar story. Perinatal mortality (still birth or death of child within 7 days of birth) in Southwark is twice the national average. Child mortality (death of child aged 1-14) is 50% higher than the national average.

The life chances of children in south east London (and similar areas around the country) are significantly lower than national averages, however these are measured. They are more likely to suffer ill-health and to die in childhood for a range of reasons. A high proportion of children grow up in poverty and inadequate housing. Many have poor educational achievement and leave school early with limited employment possibilities. The threat of violence, in the playground, the street, and for some, in the home, is never far away.

This should be a national scandal, and certainly requires a national effort to redress. Eradicating child poverty in Southwark requires resources way beyond those available to the Council and all the other local agencies combined. We can only hope that the spotlight that has been shone on Southwark in the past weeks will help build the commitment to really change children's lives for the better.

Southwark's Social Inclusion Framework (including the Datafile Annex) is available from Strategic Planning, Southwark Social Services (tel. 0207 525 3744)

Southwark Children & Families Alliance Seminar

Children and violence

Wednesday January 31st 2001, 2.00 pm
(venue to be confirmed)

with Will McMahon, Co-ordinator,
Forum on Children and Violence,
National Children's Bureau

Sara Gibbs, Child to Child Project

To book a place call Neil on 0207 252 5859

Sure Start

Millennium Babies Wood

200 trees were planted in Burgess Park on Saturday 2nd December 2000 during the Millennium Babies Wood event organised by Sure Start Aylesbury Plus with Groundwork Southwark and the Park Ranger Service. The parents of 74 children born in the Aylesbury Plus area this year attended with their babies and planted trees. Children's entertainers and a professional photographer were also on hand.

Date for your diary: 8th February 2001 Sure Start Aylesbury Plus First Year Celebration Day, at Glaziers Hall near London Bridge. All Sure Start workers, partners and parents are invited. For further information call Aileen McWey on 020 7771 3978.

London Electricity Visit

Bruno Lescoeur, Chief Executive & Chairman of London Electricity, visited the Aylesbury Estate on 27 November along with other directors in a visit organised by Business in the Community. During the visit they visited Tykes Corner, the Aylesbury Parent and Toddler Group, and heard a short presentation on the Sure Start programme from Neil Gordon-Orr, Chair of the Sure Start Aylesbury Plus Board.

Social Services Training

Southwark Social Services Children's Training Section are holding an Inter-agency Awareness Day on the new Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need. The aim is for practitioners to gain awareness and understanding of the roles and responsibilities in undertaking Inter-agency assessments of children in need. The course is open to voluntary sector staff working with children, as well as staff in social services, housing, health, education and other services. The course takes place on Thursday 11 January 2001, 9.30 am - 4.30 pm at Millwall Football Ground.

A follow up Training the Trainers course takes place from 1-2 February with the aim of enabling potential trainers to deliver training which supports the implementation of the new Assessment Framework.

To book places on either of these courses, contact sandra.wallace-milwood@southwark.gov.uk or call 020 7525 3781.

Funding news

Children's Fund

The Government has announced a new Children's Fund, worth £450 million over the next three years, to help tackle child poverty and social exclusion. The Fund will be managed by the new Children and Young People's Unit, headed by the Minister for Young People, Paul Boeteng. It will fund preventative services for 5-13 year olds and their families, and a network of local children's funds administered by voluntary sector organisations. Details of how the Fund will be administered, and how voluntary organisations can access funding, are expected in the new year.

Meet the Funders Seminar: Lloyds TSB Foundation

Southwark Community Care Forum is holding a seminar for voluntary organisations interested in applying for funding from the Lloyds TSB Foundation, featuring the Foundation's Regional Co-ordinator, John Aldridge. Areas of special interest for Lloyds TSB include family support and promoting the effectiveness of the voluntary sector. The seminar takes place on Thursday 18 January 2001, 10 am - 1 pm, Science and Technology Centre, Wilson Road, SE5. To book a place call SCCF on 020 7252 5291.

SHINE Education Trust

SHINE is a new grant making trust which focuses on education initiatives that encourage children and young people to raise their aspirations and realise their full potential. It concentrates on the economically disadvantaged in London and the South East with current priorities including innovative IT projects, schemes working with children at risk of exclusion and projects tackling the transition from primary to secondary school. For further information see www.shinetrust.org.uk or call 020 8393 1880.

Office Furniture Offered

OFFERS (Office Furniture Fittings and Equipment Recycling Scheme) in Peckham collects, stores and distributes donated office furniture and equipment for reuse by voluntary organisations. The equipment has been donated by major companies in the course of upgrading and/or refurbishing their premises. For further information contact Armin (Project Co-ordinator) at OFFERS on 020 7703 5222.

School Improvement in Southwark

This year has seen a significant improvement in Southwark schools, measured in both performance in national tests and in the results of OFSTED inspections of schools. However the pace of improvement is still not enough to bridge the gap between Southwark and national averages, and much work remains to be done.

In the Key Stage 1 results (7 year olds), 77% achieved the required level 2 or above in Reading, the same as in 1999 (compared with 83% nationally); in Writing 77% achieved the required level, down 1% since 1999 (national: 84%); in Maths, 88% achieved the required level, up 4% since 1999 (national: 90%).

At Key Stage 2 (11 years old), , 65% achieved the required level in English (compared with 75% nationally), a 7% improvement since 1999; in Maths 61% achieved the required level, up 4% since 1999 (national: 72%); in Science, 74% achieved the required level, up 7% since 1999 (national: 85%).

At Key Stage 3 (14 years old), 41% achieved the required level in English, down 4% since 1999 (national: 63%); in Maths 42% achieved the required level, up 1% since 1999 (national: 65%); in Science, 32% achieved the required level, up 4% since 1999 (national: 59%).

In GCSEs there was a slight improvement, with 31% achieving 5 GCSEs, grades A-C, compared with 30% in 1999.

The general trend is still for girls to perform better than boys in most areas. African children achieved better than the Southwark average, followed by English/Scottish/Welsh pupils. Pupils of Caribbean origin tended to perform below the Southwark average. Pupils eligible for school meals (a measure of social deprivation) also tended to perform less well.

At Key Stage 1, a clear link was shown between nursery experience and later achievement. In all subjects, pupils with pre-school educational experience performed better than those without.

Special Measures

The number of Southwark schools on 'special measures' following OFSTED inspections has been reduced. Since January 2000 six schools have been removed from 'special measures' (Albion, John Donne, Archbishop Michael Ramsey, Grange, Warwick Park and Kingsdale). Of these only Kingsdale was considered by OFSTED to have continuing serious weaknesses. St James the Great and Snowfields have both been removed from the serious weakness category.

No Southwark secondary schools are now on special measures, although there are still serious concerns about a number of primary schools in the borough. Six primary schools are on special measures (Oliver Goldsmith, Charles Dickens, Kenworth, Peckham Rye, Langbourne and Heber). The latter two have been added to this category during the last year.

Source: report to Southwark Ratification (Education) Sub-Committee, 28 November 2000.

Education Information in Yoruba

St Michael Associates has produced a guide to the British Education System in English and the west African language of Yoruba. The Guide includes information on schools admissions, curriculum, testing and examinations, special educational needs, exclusions, and other aspects of the system.

The pack also includes the same information on an audiocassette. It is available from St Michael Associates, 368 Old Kent Road, SE1 5AA (tel. 020 7708 3939), price £5.00 plus 0.75 postage and packing.

SEN Conference

A report has been published of Southwark's Special Educational Needs Conference, Listening to Parents, held in June 2000. The report includes questions from parents about SEN provision and reports of a range of workshops. Available from Frances Taylor, Parent Partnership Co-ordinator (020 7525 2673).

Siblings of Children with Disabilities

Capital Carers is proposing to establish a new working group focusing on the needs of siblings of children with disabilities and chronic illnesses in Southwark. The aim is to develop a service proposal for a group of children for whom there is little local support. For further information contact Cathy McNicholas or Chrysseus Yamaguchi on 020 7820 7868.

Early Years and Childcare News

Special Needs Report

Southwark Childcare First discussed early education and childcare for children with disabilities and special needs at its November meeting. Phillippa Russell and Judith Stone outlined the main findings of the report that the Council for Disabled Children (at the National Children's Bureau) has prepared for Southwark Childcare First.

The report estimates that there are likely to be 4,390 children under five in Southwark with some level of disabilities and special needs, of which over 90 per cent have not been identified and may not be receiving any information, services or support.

Recommendations include agreeing a common definition of special needs and disabilities across the different local agencies, better collection and sharing of information, increased provision of early intervention programmes and the creation of an early years SEN resource centre to demonstrate, lend and sell resources such as toys, mobility aids and so on.

The report will be available shortly from Southwark Childcare First on 020 7525 5240.

Men in childcare

There will be an open meeting for men (in Lewisham and Southwark) working in child care services on the 16th January 2001 from 4.30pm to 6.00pm at New Cross Family Support Project, 75 Amersham Road, SE14.

We have recently formed a 'more men into childcare' strategy group in Lewisham and Peter Moss (from the Thomas Coram Research Unit) has been to Lewisham to talk about men in childcare services. We want to meet with other men to discuss issues that impact on their work and look at ways that men who are already in, and men coming into childcare can be supported personally and professionally.

If you are interested in coming to this meeting, or want to discuss it further call Trefor Lloyd (DIY Dads 020 7732 9409) or Tim Neville (Limelight Project 0208 698 3800).

Livesey Museum for Children

The Livesey Museum for Children's new exhibition is "Transformations", opening in December 2000 and showing until Autumn 2001. The exhibition explores the subject of change and will feature the chance for children to re-design a local area using a large "town planning" exhibit with building blocks. The Livesey Museum for Children, 682 Old Kent Road, London SE15 1JF (tel. 020 7639 5604, email: livesey.museum@southwark.gov.uk)

Asylum Seekers

Southwark Children's Partnership Board received a report on asylum seekers and refugees at its November meeting.

At present Social Services are supporting 600 asylum seeking families with about 1000 children (of which 70% are placed in Southwark) and 225 Unaccompanied Minors (60% placed in Southwark). Among the social inclusion issues identified were:

Education: there is a shortage of vacancies in schools nearest to children's new homes. Many of the Unaccompanied Minors (children under 18 who entered the country without a parent) have yet to find a school.

Housing: when asylum seekers obtain refugee status they are often evicted from private rented property as landlords do not wish to deal with Housing Benefit.

Refugees and asylum seekers will be a priority for the Children's Partnership Board over the next year. For information about the Board, call Neil Gordon-Orr on 0207 252 5859.

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